comprising orally applying to said aphthous a composition consisting essentially of an immunosuppressive agent and an inhibitor of TNF- $\alpha$ .

3. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said steroid is selected from cyclosporin, decadron, and triamcinolone acetonide.

 $\sqrt{4}$ . (New) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said inhibitor of TNF- $\alpha$  is selected from thalidomide and pentoxifylline.

5. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein said immunosuppressive agent is FK 506.

6. (New) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said composition is applied orally as an ointment, a gel, or a rinse.